

7.5 DERIVED ITEM PROCESSING ALTERNATIVE

Most surveys that have derived items will be able to use the StEPS derived module to define the parameters, generate the code, and run the program. In rare instances, it may not be feasible for a survey to use the StEPS derived module to calculate its derived items. For instance, some surveys may have very long and complex derived definitions that do not fit in the allotted space on the definition screen.

To accommodate such surveys, production programmers may write stand-alone, survey-specific SAS code to calculate the value of the survey's derived items. This stand-alone code can then be accessed by the StEPS derived module and submitted for execution.

If it is determined that survey-specific code is needed for your survey, the following steps are required:

1. The survey-specific code must be written and maintained by your production programmer.
2. The production programmer is responsible for accessing the correct files (USERTEMP.DFAT) and setting the data flags.
3. The survey-specific code must be stored as "\$SPRGLIB/sderived.sas". (\$SPRGLIB is a UNIX environment variable defined in %setlibs.)

Example: The following is a simplified example of a survey-specific derived program that defines a variable called NEW (in fat record terminology: ENEW00).

```
DATA USERTEMP.DFAT;
  SET USERTEMP.DFAT;
  ENEW00=EOLD100+EOLD200;
  FNEW00="D";
RUN;
```